



**UN
VOLUNTEERS**

Q&A

International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development 2026 (IVY)

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We are inspiration in action

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All Stakeholders

General

1. What is an international year?

The United Nations designates specific days, weeks, years and decades as occasions to mark particular events or topics in order to promote, through awareness and action, the objectives of the Organization. Usually, it is one or more Member States that propose these observances, and the General Assembly establishes them with a resolution. On occasion, these celebrations are declared by the specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, etc., when they concern issues that fall within the scope of their competencies. Some of them may be later adopted by the General Assembly.

2. What is the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?

The International Year of Volunteers is a global observance to spotlight how volunteers and volunteerism drive the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Building on the previous International Years of Volunteers in 2001 and 2011, it will elevate volunteers by celebrating their contributions, promoting inclusive and innovative volunteering models and encouraging Member States, the United Nations system, civil society, academia and the private sector worldwide to integrate volunteerism into their development planning.

3. What does IVY 2026 stand for?

IVY 2026 stands for "International Volunteer Year 2026" and it was chosen to create an acronym that forms a recognisable and easy-to-pronounce acronym, which is IVY.

4. When will the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development take place?

The International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026) will officially begin on 5 December 2025 and conclude on 5 December 2026. The dates coincide with the annual observance of International Volunteer Day.

5. What is the linkage between volunteers and sustainable development?

The United Nations system recognizes volunteerism as a cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as confirmed by General Assembly resolutions, most recently [A/RES/79/148 on strengthening volunteerism for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind](#) (December 2024) and [A/RES/78/127 on the designation of 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development](#) (December 2023). The most recent stock-take was the [Secretary-General's Report on Volunteering in September 2024 \(A/79/376\)](#). As defined through Outcome 3 of its [Strategic Framework 2022-2025](#), the United Nations Volunteers supports Member States and the United Nations system in integrating volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda as an effective means of implementation and people engagement.

6. Who is behind the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?

On 18 December 2023, through its [resolution A/RES/78/127](#), the United Nations General Assembly, at its 48th plenary meeting, proclaimed 2026 the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026). The Core Group that facilitated the resolution consisted of Armenia, Bolivia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kenya, and Kiribati. The final resolution was co-sponsored by 54 Member States:

- African States (8 Member States): Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Kenya, Morocco, Rwanda and Tunisia.
- Asia-Pacific States (14 Member States): Cyprus, Fiji, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Singapore, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.
- Eastern European States (16 Member States): Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- Latin America and Caribbean States (5 Member States): Bolivia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.
- Western European and other States (11 Member States): Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Türkiye.

7. Who observes the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?

Through [resolution A/RES/78/127](#), the United Nations General Assembly invited all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, to observe the International Year, as appropriate, in order to promote the importance of volunteers for sustainable development.

8. What is UNV?

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. UNV works with partners to integrate qualified, highly motivated and well-supported UN Volunteers into the work of the United Nations system and promote the value and global recognition of volunteerism. UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and reports to the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board. Learn more about UNV [here](#).

9. What is UNV's role in the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?

Through [resolution A/RES/78/127](#), the United Nations General Assembly invited the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) to facilitate the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026) in cooperation with Member States and relevant organizations of the United Nations system and to inform the General Assembly at its 82nd session about the implementation of the resolution, including through an evaluation of the implementation of the International Year. For this, UNV set up a time-bound Secretariat for IVY 2026, with four staff at its headquarters in Bonn, Germany, and six IVY 2026 Regional Coordinators, each based in one of UNV's Regional Offices (Amman (Jordan), Bangkok (Thailand), Dakar (Senegal), Istanbul (Türkiye), Nairobi (Kenya) and Panama City (Panama). This Secretariat will prepare for the year, implement activities during the year and ensure the needed follow-up after the year.

10. How was the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development officially launched?

The International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026) was formally inaugurated on International Volunteer Day, 5 December 2025, with a high-level event at the United Nations Trusteeship Council Chamber in New York. In line

with United Nations General Assembly [resolution A/RES/78/127](#), the event brought together Member States, United Nations system organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia and other regional and international organizations. The event provided an opportunity to confirm commitments to IVY 2026 and share updates on national planning.

For those unable to attend in person, the event was livestreamed via UN Web TV and the recording remain accessible for all stakeholders to view and share: [Opening Event of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development \(IVY\) 2026 | UN Web TV](#).

In addition to the UN-level launch, many Member States, UN Entities, CSOs and other stakeholders organized their own national events to mark the start of IVY 2026, highlighting their commitment to volunteerism.

UNV also conducted a global social media campaign to mark the launch of IVY 2026. An ad hoc Trello Board was created for this purpose [International Volunteer Day 2025 and the launch of the International Volunteer Year 2026 | Trello](#) and all stakeholders observing the International Year were invited to support and amplify the campaign. As part of this campaign, UN entities were encouraged to share a video message from the Head of their Entity, highlighting the launch of IVY 2026, recognizing volunteers and how volunteerism supports their entity's mission. Watch the IVY 2026 Launch video [here](#).

Communications

1. How can I get involved in communications around the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?

Everyone can help spread the word about the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026). The [IVY 2026 Knowledge Portal](#) is the global repository for information around the Year and will provide you with relevant information as a basis for your communications efforts. Stakeholders can also submit their own IVY 2026-related events and resources directly on the Knowledge Portal, helping to share knowledge and increase visibility globally.

To provide specific guidance for stakeholders on how best to communicate around the Year, UNV has developed an [IVY 2026 Communications Guide](#). It offers comprehensive information to help stakeholders get involved, ensuring everyone's efforts contribute meaningfully to increasing visibility around IVY 2026.

On the [IVY 2026 Trello board](#), stakeholders find relevant communications assets to use for communications around the International Year, including the hashtags to use: #IVY2026 and #VolunteerYear.

2. Can partners propose joint communications with UNV on IVY 2026 (e.g., interviews or videos)?

Yes. Partners may propose joint communications initiatives, such as videos or digital campaigns, incorporating the IVY 2026 logo and key messages. However, any use of the UNV logo or requests for joint interviews must follow a pre-approval process.

3. Can stakeholders publish IVY 2026-related events directly on the Knowledge Portal without going through national focal points?

Yes. All stakeholders can submit their IVY 2026-related events directly on the IVY 2026 Knowledge Portal without going through national focal points. Please refer to [Guide on How to Submit Resources and Events via the Knowledge Portal.pdf](#) for step-by-step instructions.

This functionality is already available. All submissions are reviewed and filtered by the IVY team prior to publication.

4. Can stakeholders start publishing content about IVY 2026, using the official logo and hashtags or is it expected to start from the launch on 5 December 2025 only?

Everyone is encouraged to start publishing content ahead of the official launch of IVY 2026, using the official logo and hashtags: #IVY2026 and #VolunteerYear.

The official IVY 2026 logo is available on the [IVY 2026 Trello board](#) and may be used at your own discretion. Please note that usage is the responsibility of the stakeholder and must be accompanied by a written disclaimer clarifying that the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is not liable for its use.

5. Are there key messages around the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?

Key messages around the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026) are available here [IVY 2026 - Quick Facts and Key Messages.pdf](#) and are included in the [IVY 2026 Communications Guide](#) on page 7.

6. Is it possible to translate the IVY logo?

Yes, translation of the official logo for the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026) is possible. Please contact ivy@unv.org to learn more about the regulations for using the IVY 2026 logo and to request the design files needed to adapt it into your national and/or local language.

7. Are there any conditions or safeguards governing content published on the Knowledge Portal?

Yes. To prevent misuse and ensure alignment with United Nations standards, all content published on the IVY 2026 Knowledge Portal is governed by a standardized Terms and Conditions document. This document will regulate the scope of collaboration and address key areas such as data protection, intellectual property, liability and compliance with UN values and standards.

8. Are there any conditions attached to the use of the Communications Guide and Social Media Package?

Yes. A disclaimer is included in the Communications Guide, consistent with the guidance applicable to the IVY 2026 logo. Stakeholders are invited to use the IVY 2026 visual identity and materials for promotional activities aimed at increasing awareness of the International Year, provided that such activities are consistent with United

Nations General Assembly resolution 78/127 and compatible with the core values of the United Nations system. The same disclaimer applies to the use of the Social Media Package.

Funding

1. Is budget available to implement activities for the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) does not have a dedicated budget to support activities or events organized by external stakeholders in observance of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026).

As per United Nations General Assembly [resolution A/RES/78/127](#), costs of all the activities that may arise from its implementation should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector.

Hence, stakeholders interested in implementing activities or events as part of their IVY 2026 observance are encouraged to do so using their own funding and to pursue relevant fundraising efforts as needed.

Member States

1. What is Member States' role in the observance of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?

Member States play a leading role in observing the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. As per the provisions of the [annex to the Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\) resolution 1980/67 \("Guidelines for future international years"\)](#), there should be ordinarily national committees or other mechanisms for preparing for, conducting and following up the international year at the national level. At the same time, measures and activities carried out at the international level should complement and support measures and activities at the national level.

2. What are the specific asks to Member States from the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/127 on the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?

The United Nations General Assembly [resolution A/RES/78/127](#) invites Member States to observe the International Year, as appropriate, in order to promote the importance of volunteers for sustainable development. The resolution further appeals to Member States, as well as other participants in the observance of the International Year, to recognize and measure the contribution of formal and informal volunteers and volunteerism in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, integrate volunteerism into national development planning, introduce policies that remove all inequalities and risks in volunteering and support the setting up of knowledge and information platforms to develop and promote new forms of volunteering.

3. How can Member States celebrate IVY 2026 at the national level (e.g., through events, champions, publications, etc.)?

Member States are encouraged to celebrate IVY 2026 through a wide range of activities tailored to their national context. These may include:

- **Promotional activities**, e.g., prepare a national action plan and agenda; host meetings, conferences, events on volunteerism or advocate for integration in existing campaigns; engage with media for awareness raising; establish a website; support the setting up of knowledge and information platforms to develop and promote new forms of volunteering; announce policy and

programme intentions on specific volunteering issues; translate key documents presented on the IVY 2026 Knowledge Portal into national languages and make them available on a national website established for the Year.

- **Programmatic activities**, e.g., establish a national volunteering programme; strengthen existing networks, including at the regional level; encourage the integration of volunteerism into national development planning and strategies; introduce policies that remove all inequalities and risks in volunteering; develop TV programmes, radio shows and articles related to volunteering; mobilize funds for effective volunteering programmes at country and regional levels, including through public-private partnerships.
- **Evaluative activities**, e.g., recognize and measure the contribution of formal and informal volunteers and volunteerism in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; review the situation of volunteers and identify specific issues and problems; identify and evaluate relevant governmental programmes in relation to volunteer issues; establish research centers or work with existing research centers to generate research and data on volunteering; prepare a national evaluation report when IVY 2026 is over to showcase your activities and identify lessons learned.

These suggestions are non-exhaustive, and all contributions will help make IVY 2026 a meaningful and impactful global celebration of volunteerism.

4. How will UNV support Member States in conducting national activities within the framework of IVY 2026?

UNV, through the IVY Secretariat and Regional Coordinators, provide Member States with guidance, tools, communications materials and platforms to design and implement their own IVY 2026 initiatives. These resources include:

- IVY 2026 Roadmap for IVY 2026 implementation at the national level Member States (available in all six UN languages): [Join us | Knowledge Portal on Volunteerism](#)
- Knowledge Portal: [International Volunteer Year | Knowledge Portal on Volunteerism](#)
- IVY 2026 Communications Guide: [IVY 2026 Communications Guide.pdf](#).
- IVY 2026 Trello Board: [International Volunteer Year 2026 | Trello](#)

- UNV web page dedicated to IVY 2026: [IVY2026](#)

Moreover, the IVY Secretariat organizes monthly webinars for IVY 2026 National Focal Points network to provide regular IVY 2026 updates and opportunities for peer exchange and cross-country coordination.

5. Is there any procedure to form an IVY National Committee or is it totally up to Member States?

While the composition is ultimately at your discretion, we encourage a multi-stakeholder approach, including representatives from relevant ministries, civil society organizations, academia and volunteer-involving organizations. The Roadmap for IVY 2026 implementation at the country level, available [here](#) in all 6 UN languages, includes guidance on establishing National IVY 2026 Committees.

6. How IVY 2026 National Committees will interact with the IVY Secretariat and among each other?

The IVY Secretariat is encouraging the designation of a National Focal Point for IVY 2026 in each Member State. This will facilitate the creation of a global network of focal points to support national-level planning, share guidance and good practices and foster collaboration.

The network will receive regular updates from the IVY Secretariat and will be invited to monthly virtual meetings hosted by the Secretariat, providing opportunities for peer exchange and cross-country coordination.

In addition, Member States will have access to support from their respective IVY 2026 Regional Coordinator, who can provide guidance and assistance upon request.

7. Is it possible to hold one of the main events of 2026 in my Member State?

Absolutely! We encourage you to actively participate in IVY 2026, including by hosting national flagship events. While the UNV will coordinate the global calendar, governments are encouraged to host high-level events, conferences or celebrations aligned with the Year's objectives from 5 December 2025 until 5 December 2026. Such proposals are to be communicated and coordinated with the IVY Secretariat, ensuring the event fits within the overall global framework.

United Nations System Organizations

1. What are the specific asks to United Nations system organizations from the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/127 on the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?

The United Nations General Assembly [Resolution A/RES/78/127](#) invites United Nations system organizations to observe the International Year, as appropriate, in order to promote the importance of volunteers for sustainable development.

2. How can United Nations system organizations celebrate IVY 2026 (e.g., through events, champions, publications, etc.)?

There are many ways to celebrate IVY 2026. Each UN entity's mission is carried forward everyday by dedicated volunteers, advancing their very own mandate. Since UN entities convene global initiatives/conferences annually, IVY 2026 provides a unique opportunity to align these with the Year, highlighting how volunteers power their work and the achievement of the SDGs. Some examples are below for your consideration:

- Organize thematic events, campaigns or volunteer day
- Designate volunteer champions and actively involve in IVY campaigns
- Publish reports, research or articles on volunteerism and the SDGs
- Showcase volunteer contribution through stories, media and digital platforms
- Engage staff and families in volunteering initiatives linked to the SDGs
- Explore partners across public and private sectors for joint IVY initiatives

3. How will UNV support UN Entities in conducting international activities within the framework of IVY 2026?

The IVY Secretariat facilitates quarterly webinars for UN Entity IVY Focal Points to ensure overall coordination, provide guidance and share resources and materials for planning. These webinars also serve as a platform for UN Entities to exchange updates and information as well as to network, collaborate and brainstorm together on IVY 2026 related initiatives.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, the private sector and other stakeholders

1. How can Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, the private sector and other stakeholders celebrate IVY 2026 (e.g., through events, champions, publications, etc.)?

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, the private sector and other stakeholders can celebrate IVY 2026 by organizing and participating in activities that reflect their respective mandates and areas of expertise. Such activities may include awareness-raising events, campaigns, recognition of volunteer champions, conferences and publications highlighting the contributions of volunteers to sustainable development. Additionally, these stakeholders can develop platforms for sharing knowledge and best practices, engage in research to measure and showcase volunteerism's impact and integrate volunteerism into programs and initiatives.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, the private sector and other stakeholders are also encouraged to get in touch with their respective national focal points at the Member State level to co-create IVY 2026 activities and foster collaboration among each other.

2. How will UNV support Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, the private sector and other stakeholders in conducting national, regional and international activities within the framework of the IVY 2026?

IVY Secretariat support to CSOs, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders focuses on coordination, information-sharing and visibility, while ownership of activities remains fully with Member States.

Specifically, UNV will:

- Inform and connect: Share information about IVY 2026 opportunities and, where relevant, connect interested CSOs, academic institutions or private sector partner with their national IVY 2026 focal points.

- Facilitate coordination: Encourage Member States to include CSOs, academia, volunteer-involving organizations and the private sector in their national committees to promote a multi-stakeholder approach.
- Provide visibility and guidance: offer access to IVY 2026 communication materials (e.g., [IVY 2026 Communications Guide](#), and [Trello Board](#)) and visibility through [International Volunteer Year | Knowledge Portal on Volunteerism](#), where stakeholders can share their activities for global showcasing.

At the global level, UNV will continue engaging with networks such as IAVE, Forum and IFRC, while also providing resources, communications materials and platforms for collaboration.

3. How will UNV support CSOs/the international volunteering community in observing IVY 2026?

UNV recognizes the essential role of CSOs and the international volunteering community in shaping and celebrating IVY 2026. Through advocacy, coordination and visibility support, UNV will help amplify their voices and connect their efforts globally.

In practice, this means:

- Encouraging inclusion: Advising Member States to ensure representation of CSOs and volunteer-involving organizations (VIOs) in their national IVY 2026 committees.
- Facilitating access to information: Sharing updates, guidance and campaign resources through the [IVY Knowledge Portal](#), [Trello Board](#) and dedicated communication channels.
- Promoting visibility: Showcasing civil society-led and volunteer-driven initiatives through IVY 2026 communications platforms and global campaigns.

Each organization remains responsible for planning and implementing its own activities. UNV's role is to connect, inform and amplify, ensuring that the contributions of civil society and volunteer networks are visible, recognized and celebrated worldwide.

4. Can Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, the private sector and other stakeholders participate in the IVY closing event?

Updates on participation and engagement opportunities will be shared as plans progress, ensuring stakeholders can contribute effectively to the closing and the wider observance of IVY 2026.

Questions on IVY 2026

ALL STAKEHOLDERS

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COMMUNICATIONS

1. How can I get involved in communications around the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?
2. Can partners propose joint communications with UNV (e.g., interviews or videos)?
3. Can stakeholders start publishing IVY 2026-related events directly on the Knowledge Portal without going through national focal points?
4. Can stakeholders start publishing content about IVY 2026, using the official logo and hashtags or is it expected to start from the launch on 5 December 2025 only?
5. Are there key messages around the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?
6. Is it possible to translate the IVY logo?
7. Are there any conditions or safeguards governing content published on the Knowledge Portal?
8. Are there any conditions attached to the use of the Communications Guide and Social Media Package?

FUNDING

1. Is budget available to implement activities for the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?

MEMBER STATES

1. What is Member States' role in the observance of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?

2. What are the specific asks to Member States from the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/127 on the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development?
3. How can Member States celebrate IVY 2026 at the national level (e.g., through events, champions, publications, etc.)?
4. How will UNV support Member States in conducting national activities within the framework of IVY 2026?
5. Is there any procedure to form an IVY National Committee or is it totally up to Member States?
6. How IVY 2026 National Committees will interact with the IVY Secretariat and among each other?
7. Is it possible to hold one of the main events of 2026 in my Member State?

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ORGANIZATIONS

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2. How can United Nations system organizations celebrate IVY 2026 (e.g., through events, champions, publications, etc.)?
3. How will UNV support UN entities in conducting international activities within the framework of IVY 2026?

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOS), ACADEMIA, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

1. How can Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, the private sector and other stakeholders celebrate IVY 2026 (e.g., through events, champions, publications, etc.)?
2. How will UNV support CSOs, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders in conducting national, regional and international activities within the framework of IVY 2026?
3. How will UNV support CSOs/the international volunteering community in observing IVY 2026?
4. Can CSOs, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders participate in the IVY closing event?